



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete paragraph [0014] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0014] The present invention provides peptides containing 10 to 19 amino acidic residues, of general formula (I) (unless otherwise specified, the one-letter amino acid code is used):

Ac-C-x1-PYI-x2-x3-Y-NH2

(SEQ ID NO: 1)

(I)

wherein Ac- represents an acetyl residue, --NH2 a carboxamido terminus, x1 and x3, which can be the same or different, are selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic residues Phe, Tyr, 1Nal (L-beta-1-naphthyl-alanine), 2Nal (L-beta-2-naphthyl-alanine), Cha (L-beta-cyclohexyl-alanine), x2 is a spacer containing 2 to 12 amino acidic residues.

Please delete paragraph [0015], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0015] According to preferred embodiments, the spacer x2 is selected from 1) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES (the reference sequence is found-in: T J Schall et al. A human T cell-specific molecule is a member of a new gene family. J. Immunol. 141, 1018-1025, 1988), 2) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which 1 to 3 amino acidic residues are replaced with different natural or non natural amino acids of L or D configuration, 3) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which any group of at least two, preferably at least three and no more than nine residues, either consecutive or non consecutive, is

removed. More preferably, x2 is selected from ARPLPR-X-HIKEYF
 (SEQ ID NO: 2) ARPLPR-X-HIKEY1Nal (SEQ ID NO: 3), ARPLPR-X-
 HIKEY2Nal (SEQ ID NO: 4), ARPLPR-X-HIKEYCha (SEQ ID NO: 5),
 ARPLPR-X-HIF (SEQ ID NO: 6), ARPLPR-X-HYF (SEQ ID NO: 7),
 ARPLPR-X-EYF (SEQ ID NO: 8), ARPLPRKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 9),
 ARPLPIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 10), ARP-X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 11),
 wherein X is Ala or Pro.

Please delete paragraph [0021], and replace it with the following
 paragraph:

[0021] The following sequences are particularly preferred:

Ac-CF <u>ID NO: 12)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-CF <u>ID NO: 13)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-C1Nal <u>ID NO: 14)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-C2Nal <u>ID NO: 15)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-CCha <u>ID NO: 16)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-CF <u>ID NO: 17)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEY1Nal	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-CF <u>ID NO: 18)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEY2Nal	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-CF <u>ID NO: 19)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEYCha	Y	-nh2 (SEQ
Ac-CF <u>(SEQ ID NO: 20)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRAHI---F	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF <u>(SEQ ID NO: 21)</u>	PYI	ARPLPRAH---YF	Y	-nh2

Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 22)	PYI	ARPLPRA---EYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 23)	PYI	ARPLPR---KEYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 24)	PYI	ARPLP---IKEYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 25)	PYI	ARP---AHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 26)	PYI	A---PRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2

Please delete paragraph [0025], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0025] ID₅₀ values (mean of three independent experiments, expressed as micromolar values) obtained in a HIV-1 inhibition assay, are reported in Table 1:

MW Pept. (uma)	ID50 Sequence (μ.M)	SEQ ID NO:		
1 4852	Ac-CF 2.5	AYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF <u>27</u>	Y	-nh2
2 4768	2HN-CF 6.0	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF <u>28</u>	Y	-nh2
3 0.2	RANTES (des 1-8)			
A 4852	Ac-CF 0.5	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF <u>12</u>	Y	-nh2
B 4902	Ac-CF 0.6	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEYF <u>13</u>	Y	-nh2

C	Ac-C1Nal	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
5000	1.5	<u>14</u>		
D	Ac-C2Nal	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
5000	1.7	<u>15</u>		
E	Ac-Ccha	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
4916	0.9	<u>16</u>		
F	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEY1Nal	Y	-nh2
5004	0.44	<u>17</u>		
G	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEY2Nal	Y	-nh2
5004	0.88	<u>18</u>		
H	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEYCha	Y	-nh2
4916	0.51	<u>19</u>		
I	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPRAHI---F	Y	-nh2
4012	1.9	<u>20</u>		
L	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPRAH---YF	Y	-nh2
4112	0.87	<u>21</u>		
M	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPRA---EYF	Y	-nh2
4096	0.68	<u>22</u>		
N	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLPR---KEYF	Y	-nh2
4210	0.78	<u>23</u>		
O	Ac-CF	PYI ARPLP---IKEYF	Y	-nh2
4124	0.44	<u>24</u>		
P	Ac-CF	PYI ARP---AHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
4120	0.63	<u>25</u>		
Q	Ac-CF	PYI A---PRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
4120	1.9	<u>26</u>		

Please delete paragraph-[0028], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0028] presence of the C-x1-PYI (SEQ ID NO: 29) group and of x3-Y terminal residues and the possibility to modify the "linker" region with respect to the number and type of amino acids;

Please delete paragraph [0035], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0035] Synthesis of the peptide Ac-Cys-Phe-Pro-Tyr-Ile-Ala-Arg-Pro-Leu-Pro-Arg-Ala-His-Ile-Lys-Glu-Tyr-Phe-Tyr-NH2 (SEQ ID NO: 12).

Please delete paragraph [0040], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0040] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which

Please delete paragraph [0041], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0041] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0042], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0042] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 13), in which

Please delete paragraph [0043], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0043] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0044], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0044] Ac-C1NalPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which

Please delete paragraph [0045], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0045] x1=1Nal, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0046], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0046] Ac-C2NalPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which

Please delete paragraph [0047], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0047] x1=2Nal, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0048], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0048] Ac-CChaPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which

Please delete paragraph [0049], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0049] x1=Cha, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0050], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0050] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY1NalY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 17), in which

Please delete paragraph [0051], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0051] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=1Nal

Please delete paragraph [0052], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0052] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY2NalY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 18), in which

Please delete paragraph [0053], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0053] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=2Nal

Please delete paragraph [0054], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0054] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYChaY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 19), in which

Please delete paragraph [0055], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0055] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=Cha

Please delete paragraph [0056], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0056] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHIFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 20), in which
x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAHI (SEQ ID NO: 32), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0057], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0057] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 21), in which
x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAHY (SEQ ID NO: 33), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0058], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0058] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 22), in which
x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAEY (SEQ ID NO: 34), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0059], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0059] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 23), in which
x1=F, x2=ARPLPRKEY (SEQ ID NO: 35), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0060], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0060] Ac-CFPYIARPLPIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 24), in which
x1=F, x2=ARPLPIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 36), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0061], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0061] Ac-CFPYIARPAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 25), in which
x1=F, x2=ARPAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 37), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0062], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0062] Ac-CFPYIAPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 26), in which
x1=F, x2=APRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 38), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0063], and replace it with the
following paragraph:

[0063] The peptides described in this example were prepared
with a procedure similar to that reported in Example 1. The
analytical characteristics are shown in Table 2:

Compound		
Rt	Mw	<u>SEQ ID NO:</u>
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYFY-nh2		(1) 4.10
4900	<u>13</u>	
Ac-C1NaIPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2		(1) 5.70
4998	<u>14</u>	
Ac-C2NaIPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2		(1) 5.87
4998	<u>15</u>	
Ac-CChaPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2		(1) 5.22
4914	<u>16</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY1NaLY-nh2		(2) 9.35
4972	<u>17</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY2NaLY-nh2		(2) 9.62
4972	<u>18</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYChaY-nh2		(2) 8.74
4884	<u>19</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHIFY-nh2		(2) 9.19
4007	<u>20</u>	

Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHYFY-nh2	(2)	8.97
4107	<u>21</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAEYFY-nh2	(2)	8.30
4091	<u>22</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRKEYFY-nh2	(2)	8.73
4204	<u>23</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPLPIKEYFY-nh2	(2)	9.26
4121	<u>24</u>	
Ac-CFPYIARPAHIKEYFY-nh2	(2)	8.54
4115	<u>25</u>	
Ac-CFPYIAPRAHIKEYFY-nh2	(2)	8.71
4115	<u>26</u>	